

3/24/11

Dear Senator Harp,

My name is Stephanie Bass and I am a junior in the Northwestern Regional FFA Agriscience Program in Winsted. I live in Colebrook and I attend this regional agriscience school choice because I am deeply interested in animal science. I love the program because of all the opportunities that come with it. It teaches me to be a leader in my school and community, personal growth, and career success through Agricultural Education classes.

I participate in the program because I would like to further my knowledge of animals and agriculture in general, and to explore what careers are available pertaining to animal science. I am also able to obtain hands on experience. I am privileged to have the ability to travel with my chapter to activities away from school grounds, allowing me to experience and learn from other areas of the country. In my future, I plan to pursue a career involving animals and agriculture.

Students in the chapter are required to have an SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience Program). For my SAE, I work at a diversified livestock farm. This SAE is a big reason for my success in the program. It teaches me responsibility and the rewards of hard work.

Through my years in the FFA, I have gone to many activities and events including, junior and advanced leadership, chapter public speaking, vet tech CDE (Career Development Event), and National Convention which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The FFA will have helped me for later in life by allowing me to be a better public speaker, and a leader in my school and community.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.**

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)

This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank You for your time and attention to this important matter

Sincerely,



Stephanie Bass